

## **Bay County Extension Council**

**Minutes  
September 16, 2009**

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**Date:** September 16, 2009

**Time:** 5:30 p.m.

**Place:** MSU Extension Bay County, Third Floor, Large Conference Room

**Member(s) Present:**

Philip Englehardt  
Lyle LeCronier

Bill Palmer

Doug Rise  
Barb Wishowski

**Member(s) Excused:**

Patti Dubay  
George Heron

Marybeth Laisure  
Sara Marks

**Others Present:**

Ann Arnold, FCS Extension Educator  
Judy Delestowicz, Administrative Assistant  
Karen Parker, SNAP-Ed Program Associate  
Howard Wetters, County Extension Director

**Others Excused:**

Jan Rise, Master Gardener Volunteer Program Coordinator  
Jodi Schulz, 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator  
Margaret LaShore, SNAP-Ed Educator, Reporting & Technology

### **INFORMATION PRESENTED AND DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS**

Doug Rise called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Chair Rise stated that with only five (5) members present, there was no quorum to vote on any business that should come before the Council. Therefore, tonight's gathering would be informal and the minutes of the May 20 meeting were not approved.

**Old Business:**

Mr. Wetters began the final review on the FY2009-2010 Plan of Work, which was tabled from the May 20 meeting. Several points on this review were that MSU Extension and the Michigan Nutrition Network (MNN) are working in the local school system relative to the local food discussion identified as a programming priority. Relative to community development programming, MSU Extension is working with Sea Grant, NOAA, and local community leaders on creating ordinance model to pave the way for new zoning language on wind and methane energy on land and in the water in Bay County. There was some discussion on the wind turbines that are popping up around the county, local zoning restrictions encountered, and how the structures can be used for educational purposes. Mr. Wetters will take the lead in

MSU Extension - Bay County for a future personal finance class.

Mr. Wetters stated that Jan Rise can give a presentation on the Downtown Bay City Farmers Market at the next meeting, as there will be numbers to present. September 30 is the last day that Project FRESH coupons can be used at local markets.

Mr. Wetters stated that Council's support letter did go out to our local legislators (no other action required). Mr. Wetters thanked Council again for their support.

**New Business:**

Karen Parker, SNAP-Ed program associate, gave a presentation on Project FRESH and Senior Project FRESH in Bay County. While Project FRESH has been available to WIC recipients for over 20 years in Bay County, Project FRESH coupons have only been available to our senior citizens for the last two years due to local supporting funds. About 500 coupon books were distributed at meal sites and high-rises to all who qualified, 150 additional coupon books for seniors were provided by the Bay County Division on Aging this year thru ARRA stimulus funds. Eligibility requirements for both coupon recipients and farm vendors was discussed. A hand out on how to buy at farmer's markets and the local farmer's market list was provided to Council members in attendance.

Mr. Wetters passed out a copy of a letter sent to the Bay County Board of Commissioners regarding FY 2010 MSU Extension county budget appropriation. Mr. Wetters drafted this to showcase to the Board how agriculture tax dollars collected vs. services the county provides to the agriculture community. Mr. Wetters plans on presenting this same information to Farm Bureau.

The restructuring of MSU Extension was discussed. Across the board, 20-30% state funding cuts are expected FY 2009-2010. Town-hall type meetings are planned for MSUE staff to attend to provide input on the direction future programming and administrative structure. Mr. Wetters offered that he feels confident that our MSU Extension Central Region will be able to absorb a 20-30% cut to its budget this year due to retirement and other staff openings without laying anyone off. He gave an overview of what staffing levels and program areas may look like at the county level. Cluster county CEDs will have administrative oversight. What the county level looks like in the future also depends on what support each county government will offer. State funding cuts will come not only to MSU Extension statewide, but to the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Ag Experiment Station(s).

Ann Arnold, Extension educator, stated that the Healthy Toddlers research program is winding down, with only six months left to do the follow-up interviews with

families. About \$2,800 was brought back into the community through incentives given to families participating in Healthy Toddler Research project. Kudos to the 4-H families that are helping to sew the breastfeeding diaper bags! This is an on-going community project under the Breastfeeding Initiative. Under the parenting programs, DHS families are still being referred to us. A new program called "Together We Can," deals with shared parenting for those parents that are split and raising children. Mr. Bill Palmer noted that the Bay County Boys and Girls Club is available to be a location for supervised parental visits. Under the SNAP-Ed nutrition curriculum, Bay doubled its contacts over the FY08-09 projection.

As Ms. Jodi Schulz was unable to attend due to afternoon 4-H programming, Mr. Wetters gave an update on 4-H events. 4-H is happy to report that this year's fair was a big success - and glitch free - with archery and a llama event being new to fair this year. As this was the first time that Ms. Barb Wishowski judged at fair, she gave kudos (to the Jodies) for how judging was run - just stellar! Mr. Lyle LeCroinier would still like to see more fair coverage in the newspapers. September 20 is the next Family Fun Day and Cow Plop (flyers passed out and Cow Plop tickets made available). October 24 is the annual Soup Supper fundraiser. This year's location is the Fox Club in Crump (flyer passed out). 4-H will collaborate with the schools in presenting the SPLASH curriculum at Bangor Lincoln and will start back with educational programs at the Bay County Juvenile Home.

A Food Preservation workshop is planned on September 22 and the cost is \$15 (flyer passed out).

The Better Kid Care (BKC) programming funding will end September 30 due to state budget cuts. The ECIC grant helps child care providers get low to no-cost CEU credits as part of the licensing process. There has been some discussion within MSU Extension as to how we might proceed in providing educational opportunities to these businesses as a fee-based service.

The meeting ended at 6:30 p.m.

**ACTION TAKEN**

- No voting quorum, receiving reports only.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

**FOLLOW UP NEEDED**

- Approve May 20, 2009, meeting minutes.

Prepared by J. Delestowicz